

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 306726
ORIGIN CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-15 /032 R

DRAFTED BY CU/EE:JMJOYCE:BJE

APPROVED BY CU/EE:SWISE

EUR/SOV:GWOLFE

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

USIA/IEU:SDEMITZ, CU:CCHAPMAN

----- 054215 /14

R 180225Z DEC 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS STATE 306726

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: SUNY-MGU EXCHANGE

1. REF A COULD BE MISCONSTRUED TO READ THAT SUNY GROUP FOR SPRING SEMESTER AT MGU WILL CONSIST OF STUDENTS NOW AT MAURICE THOREZ INSTITUTE. THAT OF COURSE IS NOT THE CASE. ONLY STUDENT ADVISOR PATTERSON WILL TRANSFER TO MGU. NAMES AND ALL PERTINENT DETAILS OF 5 NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS AND 2 JUNIOR FACULTY MEMBERS MAILED DEC 14 BY SUNY'S BENEDICT TO MGU PRORECTOR TROPIN, WITH COPIES TO BENSON AND PATTERSON.

2. FYI, BENEDICT INFORMS US THAT GLITCH IN COMMUNICATIONS ON SOVIET CONTINGENT TO SUNY FOR SPRING SEMESTER (REF A) WAS WITHIN SUNY WALLS. CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE APPARENTLY DID NOT INFORM BENEDICT SOVIET STUDENTS NOT ARRIVING UNTIL FALL SEMESTER. END FYI.

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3. MGU AMERICANISTICS COUNCIL CHAIRMAN SIVACHEV IS NOW AT SUNY. BENEDICT TELLS US HE HAS IMPRESSED UPON SIVACHEV IMPORTANCE OF MGU SENDING AT LEAST TOKEN CONTINGENT OF STUDENTS TO SUNY THIS SPRING SEMESTER. BENEDICT ARGUED THAT THE SUNY-MGU AGREEMENT HAS BEEN WIDELY PUBLICIZED IN THE US, AND IF MGU FAILS TO MEET EVEN PARTIALLY OBLIGATIONS

UNDER NEW AGREEMENT, IT WILL FURTHER FUEL FIRE OF US

DETRACTORS OF US SOVIET CULTURAL EXCHANGES. BENEDICT BELIEVES HE HAS CONVINCED SIVACHEV, WHO SAID HE WOULD RAISE MATTER WITH RECTOR KHOKHLOV UPON HIS RETURN TO SOVIET UNION ON OR ABOUT DEC 25. BENEDICT IS SUFFICIENTLY CONVINCED SIVACHEV IS CARRYING PROPER MESSAGE THAT SUNY IS STILL RESERVING HOUSING FOR SOVIET STUDENTS.

4. BENEDICT REQUESTS EMBASSY TAKE NO ACTION AT PRESENT. SUNY IS CONTENT TO WAIT UNTIL SIVACHEV'S MESSAGE HAS PERCOLATED THROUGH THE MGU SYSTEM BEFORE MAKING NEW APPROACH TO MGU.
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE306726
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JMJOYCE:BJE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760465-1137
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761230/aaaaazjj.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schwenja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUN 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <27 AUG 2004 by schwenja>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUNY-MGU EXCHANGE
TAGS: OEXC, UR
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006